



# Southern Connecticut State University

**Testimony of Margaret M. Generali**  
**Department of Counseling and School Psychology, SCSU**  
*in opposition of*  
**S.B. 1095 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS**  
Education Committee- March 1, 2023

Representative Currey, Senator McCrory, Representative McCarty, Senator Berthel, Vice Chair Leeper, Vice Chair Winfield and esteemed members of the Education Committee, my name is Margaret Generali and I am a Counselor Educator and member of the Connecticut School Counseling Association. Thank you for the opportunity to offer **testimony in opposition of Senate Bill 1095 - AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS.**

Senate Bill 1095 adds the proposal “that individuals who are school counselors, social workers, psychologists, aides or other staff members have appropriate training and ongoing supports may be assigned the duties of a school resource officer.” School counselors have an important and multifaceted role in supporting students in P-12 schools. Adding to their tasks will not only take time away from current student supports but will conflict with professional expectations for school counselors.

One essential task for school counselors is that of providing social-emotional support by means of personal counseling. The counseling relationship must be built on a foundation of trust and positive unconditional regard. This bill does not clearly expound on the duties that helping professionals would train for and support but does mention “arrests, restraint and discipline”. None of the above-mentioned resource-officer duties is conducive to the establishment of trust and is not appropriate for the school counselor.

Ethically, school counselors must maintain their responsibility to students. The American School Counselor Association shares a professional code of ethics based on student rights and the professional role of school counselors (ASCA, 2022). School counselors have a primary obligation to students, who are to be treated with dignity and respect as unique individuals. School counselors are to foster and affirm all students, their identity and psychosocial development (ASCA Ethical Codes: A.1.a, A.1.b, 2022).

As a school counselor educator, I am aware of the current mental health issues in schools within our state. School aged children are coming to schools with increased incidence of anxiety and depression. They face challenges at school and home that required the support of trusted adults in the school setting. There is a shortage of mental health supports outside of schools. As well, these services are not easily accessible to many families. Therefore, it is imperative that these supports continue in the school setting. As student mental health needs increase, so should the supports that are available to them. Please consider how this bill may further prevent school counselors and other helping professionals in schools from providing direct counseling supports to students.

I would ask that you reconsider and modify SB 1095. School counselors should not be doing the work of the School Resource Officer as it is in direct conflict with counseling services and the ethical imperative of the school counselor.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Margaret M. Generali  
Chairperson, Counseling and School Psychology  
Professor, School Counseling Program  
Southern Connecticut State University  
Generalim1@southernct.edu  
203-392-5175